Waukegan News Sun, July 17, 2005

Family members of World War II Army Air Corps veteran Ward Smith are scheduled to be on hand Saturday at Waukegan Regional Airport when Smith is awarded a posthumous Purple Heart from U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park.

Smith, who died in 1987, served as co-pilot in 35 combat missions aboard a B-24 Liberator in the European Theater. He was wounded in the face by shattered glass in September 1944 during a mission over Germany but did not receive a Purple Heart.

According to Kirk spokesman Matt Towson, members of Smith's bomber group requested the award through Kirk's office, pointing out that Smith has family living in Libertyville.

The award is scheduled to take place at 1:30 p.m. alongside the restored B-24 Diamond Lil, which is visiting Waukegan Regional for public tours through Sunday.